The Heart of Appomat t ox

By: Terrie Conrad

"I believe in that old saying, newspapermen are not newsworthy" said Calvin Robinson at the start of the interview. It was 9:30 a.m. and the former editor-publisher of the **TIMES-VIRGINIAN** gave the impression of energy and alertness that comes when you've been up and busy for several hours. Father Darkleaf, as he signs himself in his weekly column, has been writing for newspapers for over half-a-century. He started the Father Darkleaf column in 1931, the year he became the owner of the **TIMES-VIRGINIAN**. He decided on that name, thinking it would lend dignity to the column being written by a comparative youngster and playing on the fact that in the 1930's, tobacco was a major cash crop grown in Appomattox

Mr. Robinson's first column was written in 1925 as a student at the University of Richmond. He called it "Hash and Rehash." Upon graduation he joined the staff of the **EASTERN SHORE NEWS**. His column eventually culminated into a book titled "Along the Shoreline".

Newspapermen in the last decade have been accused of sometimes slanting the news rather than dealing with facts alone. Mr. Robinson deals with facts. Interested in everything, he has an impressive store of knowledgeable truths that pepper his conversation.

Known for his enthusiasm and love for history, Mr. Robinson has a particular interest in Joel Sweeney, the inventor of the five-string banjo who was born and raised "along-side the Appomattox River". He is a long-time collector of Sweeney items.

Devoted as he is to the past, he is also an ardent supporter of the present--particularly in Appomattox's present and has concern and hope for her future. Read his column and barely a week goes by that there isn't mention of the town in some way.

This retired publisher of the **TIMES-VIRGINIAN** expressed satisfaction with the newspaper "It's grown a great deal and I think Lloyd Vaughan has done a good job with it. I expect it will continue to grow."

ART SUPPLIES
SEE
THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN
COURT ST.
APPOMATTOX VA.

WANT TO CRUSH *the* SMOKING HABIT?

far easier than you thought possible?

PRESENTING . . .
due to popular interest
THE 5-DAY PLAN TO STOP SMOKING
DATES: JANUARY 2-6
7:30 P.M. NIGHTLY
PLACE: SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
(Next To Times-Virginian)
For free tickets or Information,
PHONE 352-8142

SUNDAY HOURS: 10 A.M. - 7 P.M.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE!

S&H GREEN STAMPS

RALPH KING

KING'S

IT IS OUR DESIRE TO CONTINUALLY SEEK OUT WAYS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR PRODUCTS. IN A RECENT QUESTIONNAIRE WE REQUESTED OUR CUSTOMERS TO GIVE US THEIR OPINION ON WAYS WE CAN IMPROVE OUR BAKERY PRODUCTS. THE RESPONSE WAS SO GREAT THAT WE FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RESPOND PERSONALLY TO EACH. WE WANT TO TAKE THIS MEANS TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO WROTE TO US THEIR SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS WILL HELP US GREATLY.

Thank you, Ralph J. King

KING'S HAS BEEN AWARDED THE GOVERNOR'S FOOD DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD."

DEL MONTE SLICED, CRUSHED, CHUNK Pineapple 15½-oz. CAN 39¢

CANADA DRY Gingerale 3 28-oz. BOTS. $1.00

MEAT BUYS

Swift's Premium Protein BEEF

SALT.... PORK ... lb. 49¢

SPARE RIBS ... lb. 89¢

PORK NECK BONES ... lb. 49¢

GWALTNEY MEAT or BEEF Bologna 8-oz. PKG. 59¢

VALLEYDALE TEEN PACK FRANKS .. lb. 89¢

SMOKED PICNIC 6-8 lb. AVG. lb. 59¢

CUT-UP PAN READY FRYERS lb. 39¢

Frozen Food & Dairy

MRS. FILBERTS Qtrs. 2 Margarine 1-lb. PKGS. 88¢

BANQUET FRIED CHICKEN ... 2-lb. BOX $1.99

SWISS MISS ICE CREAM ½ GAL. 79¢

4 VARIETIES BANQUET SUPPERS LIMIT 2 WITH $7.50 ADDITIONAL PURCHASE 2-lb. PKG. 99¢

PLEASING PRODUCE

Fancy Florida Oranges or Tangelos .. 100 Size 5¢ ea.

EXTRA FANCY RED or GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLES .... 3 lbs. $1.00

FANCY CALIF. SNO-WHITE Cauliflower HEAD 49¢

U.S. NO. 1 DRY YELLOW ONIONS .... 3-lb. BAG 39¢

KING'S REG. or OLD FASHIONED BREAD 4 $1.00 22-oz. LOAVES LIMIT 4 WITH $7.50 OR MORE PURCHASE EXCLUDING BONUS FEATURES

Mrs. Filbert's mayonnaise

MRS. FILBERT'S Mayonnaise QT. JAR 69¢

LIMIT 1 WITH $7.50 OR MORE PURCHASE EXCLUDING BONUS FEATURES

WHOLE FRYERS 35¢ lb. 2 in a bag

GREAT GROCERY SPECIALS!

JIFFY Baking MIX ... 40-oz. PKG. 69¢

SAUER'S Black PEPPER .... 3-oz. CONT. 49¢

REYNOLD'S WRAP Aluminum FOIL ... 3 12" 25-FT. ROLL 89¢

BATH SIZE BAR Dial SOAP ..... 4 BARS $1.00

DEL MONTE EARLY GARDEN PEAS 3 17-oz. CANS $1.00

WHITE HOUSE APPLE SAUCE 3 1-lb. CANS 89¢

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S&H GREEN STAMPS
200 FREE
WITH THIS COUPON & $7.50 PURCHASE
OFFER EXPIRES 12-11-1976
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KING'S
S&H GREEN STAMPS
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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 85 - NUMBER 51 APPOMATTOX (VA.) - TIMES-VIRGINIAN - DECEMBER 16, 1976 SINGLE COPY PRICE 15¢

Father Darkleaf

by Calvin Robinson

Greetings from Martha St., Appomattox, as the time has come for Christmas decisions. To have a tree or not? A wreath at the door or window? What to give that favorite relative? A Christmas turkey? How many greeting cards to send? Will we have a White Christmas? Where did we store last year's decorations? How much gift wrap will we need? Where's the scotch tape? Ah yes, and the miracle of Christmas is that somehow all the problems get solved and come Christmas Eve night, we will be ready.

* * *

One reminder . . . Christmas Greeting Ads in The Times-Virginian are a good investment. Let the newspaper staff aid you in making a selection. And many will want to place an In Memoriam for loved ones who have passed on.

* * *

People really have mailed their holiday cards early this year. One of the first I received was addressed: "Father Darkleaf, Appomattox, Va." Got it and thanks.

* * *

A special greeting to Times-Virginian correspondents, who serve so well in bringing to our columns the news of their local communities. This paper is fortunate to have excellent correspondents.

* * *

One of the first Christmas cards I received was from a friend I have not seen for over thirty years. Such remembrances make a deep impression. And a tip . . . put your current address on your card or the envelope. I am sure many greetings are not delivered because of incorrect addresses.

* * *

As I write this copy there is no snow on the ground, but I notice that many homes already have decorations up. And stores are busy and all over, Appomattox is looking a lot like Christmas!

* * *

And he was head coach there at age seventeen! He moved up to Virginia Tech and came to Petersburg in 1926, and established a great record. From 1932 through 1945 his teams had 114 wins to 24 losses and ten ties. One of his stars was the great Eric Tipton, later of Duke, and Marvin Bass, later of William and Mary. There is a sentimental attachment for one's coaches and teachers, and we have had some great ones here at Appomattox.

* * *

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Graydon Martin, of Appomattox on their recently observed fiftieth wedding anniversary.

* * *

I came home the other day with a large 1977 calendar, with big figures. Brightleaf is superstitious and said it is bad luck to put up a new calendar ahead of time. I settled the matter by hanging it behind the door in My Den and when I get around to it will peep at it and see how many Friday the Thirteens there will be in '77, what day of the week my birthday and Brightleaf's come on, etc.

* * *

As of this writing there have been something over 960 deaths on Virginia highways in 1976. Don't ya, won't ya, couldn't ya, would't ya, please be careful!

* * *

Not feeling any energy crisis, I cleaned out my wallet the other day. Found six dollars in cash and a stack of membership cards, etc., and thank goodness, my driver's permit . . . the one with the awesome picture! Made a note that most everyone could do away with some of the items they haul around in their wallet or purse or handbag.

* * *

Thanks for reading, and seeya next week.

Appomattox Court House NPH To Host Civil War Christmas Peace

Christmas, a time of peace, has come to Appomattox where peace and reunion are words of special meaning. To help celebrate this Christmas season and because of its close relationship with a significant peace event Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is hosting the third annual "Civil War Christmas" on the evening of Saturday, December 18, from 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 p.m. A program of Christmas carols will be sung followed by the village Christmas open house.

Lit and decorated as it might have been during the Christmas of 1865 the village and (Clover Hill Tavern or Court House) (pictured above) will come to life for everyone present bringing back memories of candles, fireplaces, and a "Spirit of Peace."

Admission is free so dress warm and join in this unique look at the past.

Commissioner Of Revenue To Retire

John C. Caldwell, Commissioner of Revenue for the County of Appomattox since January 1, 1960, told the Board of Supervisors at their Friday meeting that he plans to retire effective January 1, 1977 after having served the county for seventeen years.

Caldwell had some advice for his successor on ways to get more revenue for the county. He told the board about 40 per cent of the county residents fail to file personal property taxes, forcing him to copy previous years' returns.

He suggested placing a penalty or fine on persons who fail to file returns each year. A suggested five per cent penalty would be too small, he said, "That wouldn't phase them." He suggested imposing a five per cent penalty or $25.00 fine on persons who fail to file the property tax returns.

The commissioner told the supervisors that in addition to copying the property returns for taxes he also uses records of automobile decal sales to insure that the returns include all vehicles.

He also pointed out that an additional person working in the commissioner's office would aid in increasing the number and accuracy of tax returns filed. He said both he and the treasurer now hire part-time personnel and suggested that a full-time person be hired who would work in both offices. This person would be able to travel around the county contacting persons who failed to file returns and checking on the accuracy of returns filed.

Caldwell told the board members these are suggestions to be considered later on.

Caldwell, who has three years remaining in his current term, said he had planned to remain in office until the general reassessment is completed next year, but changed his mind because of health reasons.

Board members commended Caldwell for his service to the county during the past 17

cont'd on page 11

Tommy Dorsey Orchestra In Concert At High School Tonight, December 16

There is something terribly odd about the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra which will appear in Appomattox tonight, Thursday, at the Appomattox County High School Auditorium. Its leader, Murray McEachern, hardly looks the part, nor do its musicians seem to fit the mold for sidemen playing the music of the swinging forties.

McEachern is tall, solidly built, wears wire-rimmed glasses and sports a bushy mustache and beard laced with strands of gray. Take him away from the bandstand, and the first impression is that of a college professor, physician or preacher.

However, once he places his trombone to his lips, or blows a few notes on his trumpet or saxophone, the illusion is quickly dispelled, and the real Murray McEachern, one of the finest musicians around today, moves into sharp perspective.

The band behind him produces a driving, pulsating rythmic blend of instruments that brings to life once more original Tommy Dorsey arrangements you will not want to miss hearing.

Sponsored by the Appomattox Lions Club in cooperation with the Appomattox County High School Band, tickets are available from any member of the Lions Club or may be bought in advance at Farmers National Bank, downtown; Fidelity American Bank, Hillcrest Branch; Appomattox Drug Store; or at R & K Grocery in Pamplin.

Advance tickets - $5.00; at the door - $6.00. Reserved seat tickets, if still available, are $6.00.

You will not want to miss this performance by the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, plan to be present.

COUNTY LIBRARY TO CLOSE FOUR DAYS FOR HOLIDAYS

The Appomattox County Library will be closed four days for Christmas and New Year HOLIDAYS.

The library will be closed December 23, 24, 27, and 31st.

Lions Club To Meet Tonight - Thursday

The Lions Club of Appomattox will meet on December 16th, tonight AT MAUDES RESTAURANT AT 6 P.M. - note change in time.

Members will have dinner, a short business session will be conducted and all members are to turn in unsold reserved seat tickets to the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra concert to Lion W. W. Blythe at the beginning of the meeting.

The meeting will be concluded in sufficient time to attend the concert.

Santa Will Be In Pamplin On Saturday

The Pamplin Ruritan Club will bring Santa to Pamplin on Saturday, December 18th, at 2 P.M.

Santa will have candy for all the children. Be sure and visit Santa and let him know just what you would like to have for Christmas.

Banks Announce Holiday Hours

American Federal Savings & Loan Association, Farmers National Bank, and Fidelity American Bank will all be closed December 24, 1976 for Christmas holiday and will be closed on December 31, 1976 for the New Year holiday.

These three banks will observe Friday hours on Thursday, December 23, 1976, opening from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and reopening from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. The same hours will apply on Thursday, December 30th.

Pamplin City Branch, First National Bank of Farmville, will be open December 24, 1976 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. They will be open December 31st from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

All banks in the county will resume regular schedules effective January 3, 1977.

Budget Approved By Council

Increase From 1976

Annual Dinner Honors Volunteer Firemen

The Town of Appomattox held its annual Christmas on Monday evening at Jeanne's Steak House. Town officials, all town employees and invited guests were present to honor members of the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department.

The volunteer firemen are honored each year for their service to the town and to the county and a bonus check is given to each of the volunteers, this year the largest amount ever.

In the photo above, left to right, are James Ford, Town Police Chief, who assisted in collecting money for the gift; C. R. Skinny" Wooldridge, Fire Commissioner; "Slick" Mitchell, Fire Chief; and Paul Drinkard, Chairman of the Committee to solicit contributions for the firemen.

Drinkard and Ford were each presented a gift of appreciation from members of the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department.

The Appomattox Town Council approved the budget for 1977 at their meeting on Monday night of this week.

The budget, as adopted, calls for operating expenses amounting to $233,982.00 for 1977 as opposed to a $215,834.00 total budget for 1976. These figures show an increase in the budget for 1977 in the amount of $18,048.00.

The 1977 budget shows $30,000.00 expenses for the Appomattox County School's electric charges. Under an agreement with the Appomattox County School Board and the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, the entire $30,000.00 will be reimbursed to the Town of Appomattox. If the rate is unchanged, this amount should be suffieient to cover payment for electricity at all Appomattox County Schools

$148,565.00 was approved for expenditures from the General Fund, $65,317.00 was approved for expenses for the Water Fund, and $20,000.00 was approved for Sewer Fund expenses.

Of the $148,565.00 approved and allocated for the General Fund, $69,153.00 will go for Administrative expenses; $34,427.00 goes to the Police Department; $4,670.00 goes to the Fire Department; $24,222.00 goes to the Street Department; and $16,093.00 goes for expenses for the Sanitation Department.

Dr. Jim May and Mr. Ralph Hines, May-Hines Associates of Farmville, appeared before council to ask approval to submit to the health department in Richmond, on behalf of the Town of Appomattox, plans and specifications for improvement to the water system.

The project, mostly funded by a HUD block grant, would include a water storage tank and foundation and part of a water line to the storage tank. Additional funds will be needed and a local public works application has been sent in for funds. Assuming it is approved, work is to begin within 90 days. If and when the project is advertised for bids it will be in two parts: one, storage tank; and two, water line.

Council approved the May-Hines request.

May-Hines Associates was also given authorization by council to apply for additional funds through HUD for the next step in the Downtown Project, that being the reconstruction of Harrell Street.

In other business, council gave approval to purchase a new dump truck from Moses Motor Company. The old truck will be taken in on trade.

Also approved by council was the purchase of a Cub Cadet mower at a cost of $1350.00 from Appomattox Truck & Tractor, Inc.

APPOMATTOX MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS FOR 1977

At its Monday morning meeting, the Appomattox Ministerial Association elected officers for the coming year, 1977.

The Rev. Cecil Dalton, pastor of Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church, was elected to serve as President of the Association.

Rev. Dalton replaces outgoing President Otis Smith who has done an excellent job in the past. He has resigned from the Association to accept the pastorate of a Baptist Church in Barboursville, Virginia.

Other officers elected were Vice-President, Rev. Jim Williams who is pastor of Liberty Chapel and First Baptist Church of Gladstone; Secretary Rev. Durwood Fox who is pastor of the Pamplin Methodist Charge; Radio Chairman, Rev. Doyle Chauncey, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church; Newspaper Chairman, Rev. Edward Leonard, pastor of Memorial United Methodist Church; and Jail and Park Ministry, Rev. Clarence "Whitey" Davis, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

Monthly meetings of the Appomattox Ministerial Association have been changed from a breakfast meeting to a luncheon meeting to be held the third Monday of each month at Maudes Restaurant.

Times-Virginian Sets Early Christmas Edition

The Christmas week edition of the TIMES-VIRGINIAN will be published and mailed Tuesday, December 21st. Most area residents will receive their issue of this paper on Tuesday afternoon and all subscribers will receive their copy on Wednesday morning, December 22nd - still in time to read all the news and ADS FOR THE LATE CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS!

Advertisers and news contributors are requested to help us by getting their copy in to us on Thursday or Friday. Deadline will be noon on Monday, December 20th.

The staff at the TIMES-VIRGINIAN will be working extra time in order to get the Christmas edition ready for you before the holidays.

We will resume regular publication on Thursday, December 30, 1976.

Final Swine Flu Clinic In County Set For Friday

"Swine Flu" immunization clinics will be held on Friday, Dec. 17 and Sat., Dec. 18, 1976 for those people under 25 needing "booster shots" and for any other people over the age of 18 who were unable to attend the previous mass clinics held last month.

Vaccine will be available in Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell County Health Departments on Friday, Dec. 17 from 1 - 4:30 p.m.

In Lynchburg there will be an all day clinic on Saturday, Dec. 18 at E. C. Glass High School from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Both monovalent and bivalent vaccine will be available at all clinics. All persons under 25 who received vaccine at least 4 weeks ago require a booster dose for adequate protection against swine flu.

People who have not received the vaccine are urged to do so. The Dec. 17 - 18 clinics will be the last ones held by the Central Va. Health District and will be the last opportunity to receive Swine Flu vaccine.

Individuals may attend the clinic of their choice.

All Central Virginia Health Departments will be closed at 11 a.m., Dec. 17, except for Swine Flu immunizations.

Crumbs for Thought

By: Zeke

We need as individuals and as a nation to be constantly aware of the great deposit that has been given to our care; The fate of all future generations depends upon how we have cared for it.

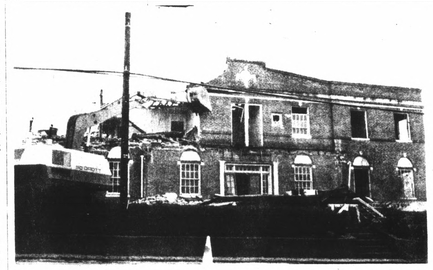
"And the care of this world and the best of other things entering in, choke the world, and it becomes unfruitful." Mark 4:19

Trash Collection Set For December 23rd

The Town Office will be closed at noon on Thursday, December 23 for the Christmas holidays.

Garbage collection in the Town of Appomattox will take place prior to noon on that day so have your containers out and ready if you wish to have it hauled away.

Collection pick-up will begin at 8 a.m. on December 23rd.



DOWN COMES THE APPOMATTOX HOTEL. Early Monday morning workmen began the demolition of the old Appomattox Hotel on Main Street and by noon all the brick and entire building was laying on ground ready to be cleared away.

The Appomattox Town Council voted to award the contract at their November 8th meeting to begin work on the Downtown Project. The contract included the demolition of the hotel, construction of a parking lot on this site and the reconstruction of Lee Street. T. E. Brown Construction Company, M. E. Gordon, President, is contractor for the first step in the Downtown project.